

SECRET

PAGE 01 SEOUL 14271 01 OF 02 070910Z  
ACTION EAP-00RELEASED IN PART  
B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 INR-05 SS-00 CIAE-00 EB-00  
NSCE-00 NSAE-00 SSO-00 HA-01 PM-03 INRE-00 /010 W  
-----027333 070941Z /23

O 070458Z DEC 87  
 FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL  
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5721  
 INFO COMUSKOREA SEOUL KS IMMEDIATE  
 JCS WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
 SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
 USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE  
 AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY  
 AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY  
 AMEMBASSY RANGOON PRIORITY  
 AMEMBASSY MANAMA PRIORITY

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 SEOUL 14271

LIMDIS  
 USCINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
 TAGS: PREL, PTER, KS, KN, BA  
 SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER'S REQUESTS REGARDING KAL 858,  
 DECEMBER 7

REF: SEOUL 14203

1. SECRET - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. FOREIGN MINISTER CHOI KWANG SOO ASKED AMBASSADOR TO  
 MEET WITH HIM DECEMBER 7 REGARDING KAL 858. ALSO PRESENT  
 WERE ASIA BUREAU DIR GEN SOH BYUNG YONG AND POLCOUNS.  
 CHOI SAID ROKG APPRECIATED EFFORTS OF THAI AND BURMA TO  
 LOCATE AIRCRAFT. ROKG NOW CONCLUDED PLANE MUST HAVE  
 EXPLODED OVER SEA BEFORE REACHING TAVOY. CHOI WAS NOW

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THINKING OF WITHDRAWING THE AD HOC TASK FORCES FROM  
 BANGKOK AND RANGOON AFTER ONE LAST LAND SEARCH. THE  
 EMBASSIES WOULD CONTINUE, OF COURSE, BUT MOFA HAD TO  
 PREPARE FOR A LONGER AND WIDER SEARCH. SOME FAMILIES

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: SAMUEL V SMITH  
 CLASSIFICATION: SECRET REASON: 25X6  
 DECLASSIFY AFTER: 7 DEC 2022  
 DATE/CASE ID: 05 AUG 2009 200807065

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WANTED TO GO TO THE AREA AND IF THERE WAS ANY CONCERN  
AMONG THEM KAL WOULD FLY THEM TO BANGKOK AND THEN OVER THE  
ROUTE TAKEN BY KAL 858.

3. CHOI CONTINUED IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO TELL THE  
FAMILIES THE VICTIMS MUST HAVE PERISHED, BUT HE WOULD MAKE  
A BRIEF STATEMENT TO THAT EFFECT TOMORROW AFTERNOON. IN  
THAT CONNECTION, HE ASKED IF THE USG COULD EMPLOY ITS

NAVAL FORCES, INCLUDING P-3C  
ASW AIRCRAFT, TO ASSIST IN THE SEA SEARCH. THE AMBASSADOR

REPLIED [REDACTED] HE DID NOT

THINK WE HAD ANY NAVAL FORCES IN THE IMMEDIATE REGION.

CHOI SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THE U.S. WAS USING SIXTH FLEET  
ELEMENTS TO SEARCH FOR THE MISSING SOUTH AFRICAN  
AIRCRAFT. (COMMENT. WE HAVE HEARD ELSEWHERE UNFAVORABLE  
COMPARISONS OF OUR WILLINGNESS TO HELP SOUTH AFRICA BUT  
"NO ACTION" FOR KOREA. END COMMENT.) THE AMBASSADOR  
DESCRIBED OUR EXTENSIVE EFFORTS TO ASSIST WITH INFORMATION  
GATHERING, AND PROMISED TO IMMEDIATELY PASS ALONG THE  
FOREIGN MINISTER'S REQUESTS.

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4. CHOI THEN SAID THE WOMAN HAD RECOVERED BUT STILL  
RESISTED ANSWERING QUESTIONS. [REDACTED]

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ASST. MIN. PARK [REDACTED] WAS LEAVING  
FOR MANAMA LATER IN THE DAY TO ADVANCE THE KOREAN CASE.

6. CHOI CONCLUDED WITH THE OBSERVATION THAT THE WOMAN HAD NOT USED EITHER KOREAN OR JAPANESE WITH INVESTIGATORS, BUT HAD RESPONDED ONCE IN ENGLISH. DIR GEN SOH SAID THE ATTENDING PHYSICIAN REPORTED HER TONGUE/PALATE TO HAVE BEEN HURT BY THE EFFECTS OF POISON. CHOI SAID THE ROKG HAD A DC-10 STANDING BY TO BRING THEM BACK IF BAHRAIN AGREED. THE ROKG WAS LEAVING THE MEMORIAL SERVICE UP TO KAL AND THE FAMILIES, BUT CHOI DID NOT EXPECT IT TO BE SOON.

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B1

7. ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE REGARDING NAVAL SEARCH,

LILLEY##

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